

## **TEXAS CLIPPER II GETS A NEW LIFE... AGAIN!**

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**The Texas Clipper II**

***Photo courtesy of Texas Maritime Academy***

The *Texas Clipper II* began its life at sea as a U.S. Navy ship, had a distinguished career as a training vessel, was towed from the Beaumont, Texas, Reserve Fleet for hurricane recovery work in Lake Charles, La., and is now being refitted to ship out to sea again. This time, the ship will be known as the *Pacific Collector*, and will support the Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency.

The *Pacific Collector* will carry telemetry equipment to support missile flight tests from remote areas with little or no test infrastructure. Most of its work will be done in the Pacific Ocean, and the ship will be homeported in the San Francisco Bay area.

The ship was launched as the USNS *Chauvenet* in 1970, and was the Navy's first ship specially designed to support coastal hydrographic surveys.

In 1996, the Maritime Administration took title to the ship, renamed it the *Texas Clipper II* and had it refitted as a training ship, delivering it to the Texas Maritime Academy in 1996.

The *Texas Clipper II* was retired in 2005 to the National Defense Reserve Fleet in Beaumont months before it was needed to house Hurricane Rita recovery workers and evacuees in Lake Charles. The *Texas Clipper II* was relieved of its FEMA mission in early March, and arrived at the shipyard for conversion work on March 18, 2006.